



WRITING THE STORY OF ARIZONA'S FUTURE

Centennial Scholars

Summary:

Today's eighth graders are the high school Class of 2012 – Arizona's "Centennial Class." Governor Napolitano's Centennial Scholars Program would open the doors to higher education for these students, and all the classes to follow.

Under the Centennial Scholars Program, eighth graders could sign a pledge to uphold certain standards during high school – to do well in school, stay out of trouble, and devote time to community service. If they met these standards during high school, they would be guaranteed four years of free tuition to any of Arizona's community colleges or state universities.

The Centennial Scholars Program would:

- Put Arizona's committed students on a track to higher education. Too often, students show promise in lower grades, but during high school stray from the path to college.
- Assure the families of committed students that they will be able to afford higher education for their children.
- Encourage high school students to avoid drugs, alcohol, and other illegal activity.
- Increase the number of students earning bachelor's degrees in Arizona.
- Give students a basis for lifelong involvement in their communities by requiring community service.

What would a student have to do to qualify?

- Pledge in their eighth-grade year to:
 - Maintain a 3.0 grade point average in high school
 - Not use alcohol or illegal drugs, or engage in any other illegal activity
 - Perform at least 100 hours of community service in high school
- Apply to one of Arizona's public institutions of higher education, and be accepted.

What effect does would this program have on the current budget?

None. The Centennial Scholars Program, which would be administered by the Arizona Board of Regents, would not have a major fiscal impact until 2012, when the first group of "Centennial Scholars" enters college.

Governor Janet Napolitano
2008 State of the State Address
January 14, 2008